Survey for Ganga Action Plan

354. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on completion of first phase of Ganga Action Plan a survey about the pollution level of Ganga and its tributaries was made, before launching the IInd Phase;

(b) if so, how far the implementation of first phase of the Action Plan was found short of targets in respect of different parameters like flow of untreated sewage and industrial waste and affluence into the river in different sectors; and

(c) the steps already taken/being taken to achieve the first phase-targets in respect of various parameters before undertaking the second phase?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target of diversion of untreated sewage under the Ganga Action Plan was 873 million litres per day (mld) from 25 class I towns (population — one lakh and above). A capacity of 683 mld against this target has been commissioned so far. The additional targets of diversion of untreated sewage from 95 towns on the main stem of Ganga and its major tributories namely; Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar under the Ganga Acton plan Phase II are as under:

Yamuna	—	736 mld
Gomati	—	270 mld
Damodar	—	68 mld
Ganga	—	668 mld
Total:		1742 mld

Monitoring and control of industrial pollution is gone under the existing Environmental Acts. This is a regular activity. Under the Ganga Action Plan, 68 grossly polluting industries generating about 260 mld of industrial waste water were identified in U.P. Bihar and West Bengal. The current status of pollution by these industries is as under:

(i) Number of industries operating with adequste effuent treatment plants	43
(ii) Number of industries closed down due to unsatisfactory functioning of effluent treatment plants or without effluent treatment plants.	25
	68

(c) The progress of the Ganga Action Plan is monitored regularly at difterent levels in the Central Government and the State Governments. The first Phase target of untreated sewage will be fulfilled after completion of the remaining 10 schemes out of the 261 schemes sanctioned under it which are targetted for completion by 31.03.1998.

Pollution in big cities

355. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn to a news item, "Big cities turning into killing fields" due to air pollution, as appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 1st November, 1997; and

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take to reduce the number of deaths and illness due to air pollution in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken preventive and control measures to reduce pollution, which includes the following;

— Emission and effluent standards have been notified for the major categories of polluting industries.